

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION**

FILED

July 16, 2024

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BY: Julie Golden
DEPUTY

**BERNHARDT TIEDE, II;
TEXAS PRISONS COMMUNITY
ADVOCATES; BUILD UP, INC.,
A/K/A JUSTICE IMPACTED
WOMEN’S ALLIANCE; TEXAS
CITIZENS UNITED FOR
REHABILITATION OF
ERRANTS; and COALITION FOR
TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES,
*Plaintiff,***

v.

**BRYAN COLLIER, in his official
capacity as Executive Director of
Texas Department of Criminal
Justice,
*Defendant.***

Cause No. 1:23-CV-01004

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTIVE ORDER

Before this Court is the Joint Motion of the parties, Plaintiffs, Bernhardt Tiede, II (“Tiede”), Texas Prisons Community Advocates (“TPCA”), Build Up, Inc., a/k/a Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance (“Lioness”), Texas Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (“TX CURE”), and Coalition for Texans with Disabilities (“CTD”) (collectively “Plaintiffs”), and Defendant Bryan Collier (“Collier”), requesting entry of a confidentiality and protective order (“Protective Order”). Based on the parties’ submissions and the record in this matter, the Court finds that

disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential, sensitive, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation would be warranted. Accordingly, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter to:

- (1) expedite the flow of information;**
- (2) facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials;**
- (3) adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential;**
- (4) ensure that the parties are permitted reasonably necessary use of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial;**
- (5) address the handling of confidential materials at the end of the litigation; and**
- (6) serve the ends of justice.**

This Protective Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures of responses to discovery, and the protection it affords extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled under the applicable legal principles to be treated as confidential.

After careful consideration, it is ORDERED that the motion is granted, and the Court ORDERS the following:

1. Confidential Information

“Confidential information” means any information of any type, kind, or character that is designated as “Confidential” by any of the supplying or receiving

persons, whether it be a document, information contained in a document, information revealed during discovery, or otherwise.

2. Attorneys' Eyes Only

Information and documents designated as "Attorneys' Eyes Only" ("AEO") are Confidential information that can be viewed only by the Court, retained counsel for the parties in this litigation, staff of retained counsel, and the parties' expert witnesses. Expert witnesses may view information documents designated as AEO and can be provided a copy of such in order to prepare expert reports and testimony for hearing and trial. Expert witnesses cannot retain any of information and documents designated as AEO.

3. Qualified Persons

"Qualified Persons" means:

- (1) the party, if a natural person;**
- (2) if the party is an entity, such officers or employees of the party who are actively involved in the prosecution or defense of this case who, by their receipt of Confidential information, are bound by the terms of this Protective Order;**
- (3) retained counsel for the parties in this litigation and their respective staff;**
- (4) this Court and its staff and any other tribunal, special master, or dispute resolution officer duly appointed or assigned in connection with this litigation;**
- (5) actual or potential independent experts or consultants (and their administrative or clerical staff) engaged in connection with this litigation (which shall not include the current employees, officers, members, or agents of parties or affiliates of parties) who, by their**

receipt of this Confidential information are bound by the terms of this Protective Order;

- (6) jury and trial consultants and their staff and mock jurors who, by their receipt of Confidential information are bound by the terms of this Protective Order;**
- (7) litigation vendors, court reporters, video camera operators, translations, and other litigation support personnel;**
- (8) any person who was an author, addressee, or intended or authorized recipient of the Confidential information and who agrees to keep the information confidential; provided that such persons may see and use the Confidential information but not retain a copy; and**
- (9) such other person or persons as this court may designate after notice and opportunity to be heard.**

“Qualified Persons” shall not include any incarcerated individual and/or any individual confined to the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

4. Designation Criteria

A party shall designate as “Confidential” only such information that the party in good faith believes in fact is confidential. Information that is generally available to the public, such as public filings, catalogues, advertising materials, and the like, shall not be designated as Confidential.

Information and documents that may be designated as Confidential information include, but are not limited to, trade secrets, confidential or proprietary financial information, operational data, business plans, competitive analyses, personnel files, personal information that is protected by law, and other sensitive information that, if not restricted as set forth in this order, may subject the producing

or disclosing person to competitive or financial injury or potential legal liability to third parties.

Correspondence and other communications between the parties or with nonparties may be designated as Confidential information if the communication was made with the understanding or reasonable expectation that the information would not become generally available to the public.

“Confidential information” shall not include information that either:

- (1) is in the public domain at the time of disclosure, as evidenced by a written document;**
- (2) becomes part of the public domain through no fault of the recipient, as evidenced by a written document;**
- (3) the receiving party can show by written document was in its rightful and lawful possession at the time of disclosure; or**
- (4) lawfully comes into the recipient’s possession subsequent to the time of disclosure from another source without restriction as to disclosure provided such third party has the right to make the disclosure to the receiving party.**

5. Use of Confidential Information

All Confidential information or AEO information provided by any party or nonparty in the course of this litigation shall be used solely for the purpose of preparation, trial, and appeal of this litigation and for no other purpose and shall not be disclosed except in accordance with the terms of this Order.

6. Disclosure of Confidential Information to Inmates Prohibited

Under no circumstances shall any personally identifying information

pertaining to any Texas Department of Criminal Justice employee, contractor, or volunteer be disclosed to any inmate. Personally identifying information pertaining to an individual who is an employee of any correctional facility or related within the first degree by consanguinity or affinity to an employee of any correctional facility, including, but not limited to, the individual's home address, home telephone number, and social security account number, is privileged from discovery by any inmate confined to the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 30.010. Release of such personally identifying information is a criminal offense punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 and/or a six-month confinement in county jail. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 552.352(b).

7. Marking of Documents

Documents provided in this litigation may be designated by the producing person or by any party as Confidential information by marking each page of the documents so designated with a stamp that the information is "Confidential." Documents provided in this litigation may be designated by the producing person by any party as AEO information by marking each page of the documents so designated with a stamp that the information is "Attorneys' Eyes Only." This designation should be made in a fashion or form that is conspicuous yet allows the Confidential information to remain legible. In lieu of marking the original of a document, if the

original is not provided, the designating party may mark the copies that are provided. Originals shall be preserved for inspection.

8. Disclosure at Depositions

Information disclosed at (a) the deposition of a party or one of its present or former officers, director's employees, agents, consultants, representatives, or independent experts retained by counsel for the purpose of this litigation, or (b) the deposition of a nonparty may be designated by any party as Confidential information or AEO information by indicating on the record at the deposition that the testimony is "Confidential" or "Attorneys' Eyes Only."

Any party also may designate information disclosed at a deposition as Confidential information or AEO information by notifying all parties in writing no later than 30 days of receipt of the transcript of the specific pages and lines of the transcript that should be treated as Confidential information or AEO information. All deposition transcripts shall be treated as Confidential information and AEO information for a period of 30 days after the initial receipt of the transcript.

To the extent possible, the court reporter shall segregate into separate transcripts information designated as Confidential information or AEO information with blank, consecutively numbered pages being provided in a non-designated main transcript. The separate transcript containing Confidential information and AEO

information shall have page numbers that correspond to the blank pages in the main transcript.

Counsel for a party or a nonparty witness shall have the right to exclude from depositions any person who is not authorized to receive Confidential information or AEO information pursuant to this Protective Order, but such right of exclusion shall be applicable only during person of examination or testimony during which Confidential information or AEO information is being used or discussed.

9. Disclosure to Qualified Persons

Confidential information and AEO information shall not be disclosed or made available by the receiving party to persons other than Qualified Persons except as necessary to comply with applicable law or a valid order of a court of competent jurisdiction. But if a disclosure is compelled by law or court order, the receiving party will notify the producing party as promptly as practicable (if at all possible, before making such disclosure). The receiving party shall seek a protective order or confidential treatment of such information or cooperate with the producing party to protect the information.

10. Unintentional Disclosures

Documents unintentionally produced without designation as Confidential information or AEO information later may be designated and shall be treated as

Confidential Information or AEO information from the date written notice of the designation is provided to the receiving party.

If a receiving party learns of any unauthorized disclosure of Confidential information or AEO information, the party shall immediately upon learning of such disclosure inform the producing party of all pertinent facts relating to such disclosure and shall make all reasonable efforts to prevent disclosure by each unauthorized person who received such information.

11. Documents Produced for Inspection Prior to Designation

In the event documents are produced for inspection prior to designation, the documents shall be treated as Confidential information during inspection. At the time of copying for the receiving parties, Confidential information shall be marked prominent “Confidential” and AEO information shall be marked prominently “Attorney’s Eyes Only” by the producing party.

12. Consent to Disclosure and Use in Examination

Nothing in this order shall prevent disclosure beyond the terms of this order if each party designating the information as Confidential information or AEO information consents to such disclosure or if the court, after notice to all affected parties and nonparties, orders such disclosure. Nor shall anything in this order prevent any counsel of record from utilizing Confidential information or AEO information in the examination or cross-examination of any person who is indicated

on the document as being an author, source, or recipient of the Confidential information or AEO information, irrespective of which party produced such information.

13. Challenging the Designation of Confidential Information

A party shall not be obligated to challenge the propriety of a designation Confidential information or designation AEO information at the time the designation is made, and a failure to do so shall not preclude a subsequent challenge to the designation. In the event that any party to this litigation disagrees at any stage of these proceedings with the designation of any information as Confidential information or AEO information, the parties shall first try to resolve the dispute in good faith on an information bases, such as by production of redacted copies. If the dispute cannot be resolved, the objecting party may invoke this Protective Order by objecting in writing to the party who designated the document or information as Confidential information or AEO information. The designating party shall then have 14 days to move the court for an order preserving the designated status of the disputed information. The disputed information shall remain Confidential information or AEO information unless the Court orders otherwise. Failure to move for an order shall constitute a termination of the statutes of such item as Confidential information or AEO information.

14. Challenging Release of Confidential Information to Qualified Persons

In the event that any party in good faith believes that a particular Qualified Person or the disclosure of particular Confidential information to such information should be precluded, the objecting party shall give written notice to the opposing party and the parties shall first try to resolve the dispute in good faith on an informal basis. If the dispute cannot be resolved, the objecting party shall have 21 days from the date of the written notice to move the court for an order denying the disputed person (a) status as a Qualified Person, or (b) access to particular Confidential information or AEO information. The objecting party shall demonstrate that disclosure to the disputed person would expose the objecting party to a substantial risk of harm. Upon the timely filing of such a motion, no disclosure of Confidential information or AEO information shall be made to the disputed person unless the court enters an order preserving the designation.

15. Manner of Use in Proceedings

In the event a party wishes to use any Confidential information or AEO information in affidavits, declarations, briefs, memoranda of law, or other papers filed in this litigation, the party shall do one of the following: (1) with the consent of the producing party, file only a redacted copy of the information; (2) where appropriate (e.g., in connection with discovery and evidentiary motions) provide the

information solely for in camera review; or (3) file such information under seal with the court consistent with the sealing requirements of the court.

Nothing in this Order shall limit the parties' rights or ability to offer evidence at hearing or trial. The manner of using any Confidential information or AEO information at hearing or trial and the status of such Confidential information or AEO information resulting from any such use will be determined by the court.

16. Filing Under Seal

The clerk of this court is directed to maintain under seal all documents, transcripts of deposition testimony, answers to interrogatories, admissions, and other papers filed under seal in this litigation that have been designated, in whole or in part, as Confidential information or AEO information by any party to this litigation consistent with the sealing requirements of the court.

17. Return of Documents

Not later than 120 days after conclusion of this litigation and any appeal related to it, any Confidential information or AEO information, all reproductions of such information, and any notes, summaries, or descriptions of such information in the possession of any of the persons specified in paragraph 3 shall be returned to the producing party or destroyed, except as this court may otherwise order or to the extent such information has been used in evidence at any trial or hearing. Notwithstanding this obligation to return or destroy information, counsel may retain

attorney work product, including document indices, so long as the work product does not duplicate verbatim substantial portions of the text of any Confidential information or AEO information.

18. Ongoing Obligations

Insofar as the provisions of this Protective Order, or any other protective orders entered in this litigation, restrict the communication and use of the information protected by it, such provisions shall continue to be binding after the conclusion of this litigation, except that (a) there shall be no restriction on documents that are used as exhibits in open court unless such exhibits were filed under seal, and (b) a party may seek the written permission of the producing party or order of the court with respect to dissolution or modification of this, or any other, protective order.

19. Duty to Ensure Compliance

Any party providing Confidential information or AEO information to a Qualified person shall have the duty to reasonably ensure that such person observes the terms of this Protective Order and shall be responsible upon breach of such duty for the failure of such person to observe the terms of this Protective Order.

20. Waiver

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502, neither the attorney-client privilege nor work-product privilege is waived by disclosure connected with this litigation.

21. Modification and Exceptions

The parties may, by stipulation, provide for exceptions to this order and any party may seek an order of this court modifying this Protective Order.

22. Compliance with Western District of Texas Local Rule AT-6

Counsel for all parties shall avoid making extrajudicial statements that are substantially likely to materially prejudice litigation of this case.

It is SO ORDERED this 16th day of July, 2024.



ROBERT PITMAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE